

NIXON PROMISES TO SEEK HARMONY IN NEW CONGRESS

In a Conciliatory Mood, He
Asserts That He Plans No
Further Party Purges

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 10—

President Nixon pledged tonight to work harmoniously with Democrats and Republicans in the new Congress, and said he would conduct no further purges of members of his own party as he did in the midterm elections against Senator Charles E. Goodell of New York.

At his first news conference in four months, Mr. Nixon said that he wished to put the campaign behind him.

"I personally expect to support all of those Republicans who may be running for the United States Senate in 1972, if they want my support," he said. [Question 27, Page 32.]

Mr. Nixon seemed in a generally conciliatory mood. He repudiated Vice President Agnew's "pablum" description of the Scranton Commission report on student unrest; said some friendly words about the deposed Secretary of the Interior, Walter J. Hickel; promised to seek broader contacts with the press, and conceded that he had not made "as much progress as I would like" in ending division in the country.

Generation Gap

"Divisions in this country are never going to end," he said. "There's always going to be a generation gap and there's always going to be differences between the races and between the religions." [Question 5.]

"The problem is trying to mute those differences, to mitigate them to the greatest extent possible and to develop a dialogue," he added. He said he was particularly "concerned" about his relations with the youth, but suggested they would improve as he brought the war in Vietnam to a close.

On other major domestic matters, the President made these comments:

¶ Announced the appointment of Donald Rumsfeld, thought to be a moderate, to full-time status on his White House staff as a counselor to the President. Mr. Rumsfeld's successor as the director of the Office of Economic Opportunity will be Frank Carlucci 3d, presently associate director of operations for the antipoverty program.

¶ Said that Representative George Bush, Republican of Texas, who was defeated in a bid for the Senate in November, would be given a high position in the Administration, to be announced tomorrow morn-

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Nixon Vows to Work With Congress

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ing. Mr. Bush is also thought to be a moderate Republican.

¶Reaffirmed his strong support for the supersonic transport program, which the Senate has rejected and the House has approved, in order to keep the United States "first in the world in commercial aviation."

¶Said that he would use Federal leverage to promote racial integration in the suburbs "only to the extent that the law requires."

Emphasis Differs

According to some reports, the Administration has not been eager to go as far as George Romney, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, in using the resources of the Federal Government to integrate the suburbs.

Mr. Nixon said that he would not provide aid to Federal housing programs in communities that practice discrimination and have "taken no steps to remove it."

However, he said, "forced integration of the suburbs is not in the national interest" and he declared that he would not use the power of the Federal Government or Federal funds to compel integration.

Mr. Nixon, who not previously commented on the 10-week-old Scranton Committee report, said he had read it, and "it is certainly not pabulum." Without disclosing any details of his impressions of the report, he said he had written to Mr. Scranton and that the letter would be released shortly.

Mr. Scranton, reached by phone at his home in Scranton, Pa., said that the letter had

not reached him yet. Because of the rail strike, he said, "I wouldn't be surprised if I didn't get it until Monday."

He said it was impossible for him to comment on the President's letter because "I honestly don't know what's in it."

Washington sources familiar with drafts of the response said tonight that these were generally approving of the commission report, but "somewhat defensive" concerning the recommendations addressed to the President.

The commission has said its most important recommendation was that the President must give moral leadership against campus-centered social hostility.

The draft language was described as "very supportive" of other recommendations, especially those addressed to universities and to law enforcement agencies.

The news conference came after a week of rising criticism among reporters and other observers here on Mr. Nixon's silence on many major subjects since his last news conference in Los Angeles on July 30. When asked about the infrequency of his appearances before the press, Mr. Nixon said that he had tried to inform the American people in many different ways.

However, he went on, he said he would be "open to suggestions" as to how he could enlarge his contacts with newsmen—not necessarily by having more televised news conferences but by having more informal sessions in his office and perhaps even private interviews, a practice he has tended to avoid.

The President described as "legitimate" criticisms of remarks that he had made about the Mylai incident, Charles Manson and the black militant, Angela Davis. Mr. Nixon had suggested all three were guilty of crimes before or during their trails.

Mr. Nixon was asked at several points whether he thought his personal campaigning and his party's emphasis on the law and order issue had yielded political dividends. For the first time since the elections, he did not say that they had.

"I feel it is my responsibility as President to do everything I can to work for the election of men who will help support me in keeping the pledges that I made to the American people when I ran for President. . . . Having done that, however, it is now my responsibility, now that the people have spoken, to work with those men and those women elected by the people in 1970."

Then he said that "under support third-party candidates against Republicans who disagreed with major parts of his policies."

Asked how much dissent he would be willing to tolerate in his party, Mr. Nixon conceded that he valued party unity at election time.

"I have always felt that it was very important for a party to be as united as it possibly could be, particularly as we go into a national election," he said.

But he said that he would support all Senate Republicans running in 1972, adding:

"And some of them are, as you know, members of what is called the liberal wing of the party."